Northbrook School District 27

Office of the Superintendent
John B. Deiter, Ph.D.

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MEMORANDUM

To: Members, Board of Education
From: John Deiter
Re: Fall 2026 Enrollment Report
Date: September 9, 2026

This report provides a summary and analysis of our grade-level enrollment data. I have also provided future enrollment projections through the 2030-31 school year.

Fall Enrollment Data for 2026

- The total enrollment for the fall of 2026 is **1309**. This is six fewer than last year.

- Each grade-level enrollment is considered in relation to the cohort's within-grade growth from the previous school year. We experienced growth in most cohorts through fifth grade, sixth grade remained flat, and we saw declines as students moved into seventh and eighth grades. We also have fewer students placed outside the District than in previous years, since we now operate the SLE and Little Bulldog programs in-house.

- At kindergarten, we relied on historical data and projected 125 students. Our actual enrollment is 126, so we hit the projected number this year. This is the second consecutive year that we have landed within one or two students of 125.

- I will continue to use the 125 number for the kindergarten projections, but as always, we will monitor incoming enrollment in the spring.

- Two key factors that have the most significant impact on our enrollment from year to year:

    1. Graduating eighth-grade classes are typically larger than the incoming kindergarten classes (due to growth over the nine years of the class).
    2. Within-grade growth from year to year in grades 1-8.

- Comparing our enrollments by building from last fall:
    - Hickory Point decreased by eight students K-2.
    - Shabonee increased by three students.
    - Wood Oaks increased by three students.

- Special placement enrollment outside the District is down to four students. Two are at True North, and two are at private placements. Historically, we have also included our special education preschool students in this count, dating back to when all of those students were placed off campus. This year, two preschool students are placed off campus, and nine special education students attend Little Bulldogs. Combined, these groups account for 15 students receiving special education services outside our K–8 classrooms. Community peers enrolled in Little Bulldogs pay tuition and are not included in this count.

- 2026-27 class sizes are consistent with our typical student-teacher ratios, except for 2nd grade, which is slightly lower this year.

- This fall, District 27 enrolled **665 boys and 633 girls**, resulting in **32 more boys than girls** across grades K–8. We have had larger discrepancies in recent years.

- I started reporting on the District's demographics in 2022 and noted an increase in diversity since the 2012–13 school year. Since 2022, we have seen a slight decrease in the percentage of students who are White of non-Hispanic origin, from 64.8% to approximately **63.7%**. The percentage of students of Asian descent has increased slightly, from 25.1% to approximately **26.2%**. The other demographic categories have remained relatively stable. Approximately **4.4%** of our students are Hispanic, **3.9%** identify as two or more races, and **1.2%** are Black or African American.

  The change is much more pronounced when looking further back. In the 2012–13 school year, our total enrollment was 1,226; 83% of our students were White of non-Hispanic origin, 11% were Asian, 2.4% were Hispanic, 2% were Multiracial, and 0.6% were Black or African American. Today, approximately **36% of our K–8 students identify as a race or ethnicity other than White, non-Hispanic**, compared with approximately 17% in 2012–13.

  Our diversity is also reflected in the languages spoken by our families. Approximately **33% of students report a primary home language other than English**, representing more than 30 different languages.

Figure 1

Fall Enrollment Data by School for 2026				
School	**Grade**	**2026-2027 Fall Enrollment (Number of Sections)**	**Class Size**	**New Students in Fall 2026**
Hickory Point	Kdgn	126 (7)	18	78
	First	130 (7)	18-19	5
	Second	126(7)	18	5
	Total	**382**		**88**
Shabonee	Third	149 (7)	21-22	9
	Fourth	141(7)	20-21	4
	Fifth	171 (8)	21-22	5
	Total	**461**		**18**
Wood Oaks	Sixth	154	NA	6
	Seventh	147	NA	2
	Eighth	150	NA	4
	Total	**451**		**12**
Other Special Placements **ECP (PreK)** **ECP (Little Bulldogs)** **NSA** **Out-of-District** **Private School** **Private Residential**	Pre-K-8	 2 9 2 2	NA	NA
	Total	**15**		**NA**
District Totals		**1309**		**118**

* We define new kindergarten children as those students who did not have a sibling attend school on the last day of school last year.

New Student Move-Ins

- This year, we have **118 new students** entering District 27. That is down slightly from **126 in 2025-26**, but higher than the **98 new students in 2024-25** and comparable to the **113 in 2023-24**. The five-year range has been fairly wide, from 98 to 126 new students annually. A tight housing market in Northbrook may continue to limit move-ins. Broader demographic trends, including declining birth rates, may also be contributing to lower student mobility and enrollment growth.

Figure 2

Number of New Students to District 27 over the Past Five School Years				
Year	**K-2**	**3-5**	**6-8**	**Total**
2022-23	86	23	16	125
2023-24	89	15	9	113
2024-25	60	20	18	98
2025-26	89	24	13	126
2026-27	88	18	12	118

Revised Enrollment Projections

- We revise our enrollment projections annually. This revision includes recalculating all "within-grade-growth" factors, incorporating this year's enrollment data. We then use these new factors, a kindergarten projection of 125, and other idiosyncratic factors to develop our overall projections. For example, graduating a particularly large or small class in any given year can affect the next year's total enrollment. Enrollment projections are found in Figure 3 below. These projections include an estimated number of 153 special education preschool children and students placed outside the District.

- Last year, I added a 10-year history of our total enrollment in Figure 5. Ten years ago, we had 1244 students enrolled, which is one of our lowest numbers in recent history. Our highest enrollment was in 2022-23, with 1,335 students. We should remain steady in enrollment over the next four years, as shown in Figure 4; however, when the large cohort currently in 5th grade exits Wood Oaks, we will likely see a significant reduction in enrollment.

Figure 3

Projected Enrollment 2027 - 2028											
School	**K**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**Others**	**Totals**
HP	125	135	133								393
SH				131	155	144					430
WO							176	153	148		477
Other											0
Totals	125	135	133	131	155	144	176	153	148	13	1313

Projected Enrollment 2028-2029											
School	**K**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**Others**	**Totals**
HP	125	135	138								398
SH				138	135	159					432
WO							149	175	155		479
Other											0
Totals	125	135	138	138	135	159	149	175	155	13	1322

Projected Enrollment 2029-2030											
School	**K**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**Others**	**Totals**
HP	125	135	138								398
SH				143	142	138					423
WO							164	148	176		488
Other											0
Totals	125	135	138	143	142	138	164	148	176	13	1322

Projected Enrollment 2030-2031											
School	**K**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**Others**	**Totals**
HP	125	135	138								398
SH				143	147	145					435
WO							142	163	150		455
Other											0
Totals	125	135	138	143	147	145	142	163	150	13	1301

Figure 4

Summary K-8 Enrollment Projection By School - Year Totals					
School Year	**Hickory Point**	**Shabonee**	**Wood Oaks**	**Other**	**Total**
2026-2027	382	461	451	15	1309
2027-2028	393	430	477	13	1313
2028-2029	398	432	479	13	1322
2029-2030	398	423	489	13	1323

2029-2030	398	436	455	13	1302

Figure 5

Enrollment History	
School Year	**District Total**
2016 - 2017	1244
2017 - 2018	1258
2018-2019	1260
2019 - 2020	1300
2020-2021	1325
2021-2022	1322
2022-2023	1335
2023-2024	1333
2024-2025	1315
2025-2026	1315
2026-2027	1309

Special Populations

- Last year, I added Figure 6, which shows the number of students who have IEPs and/or 504 Plans. We hit a low during the pandemic era when fewer assessments were conducted, but we have now surpassed our previous high in IEPs from 2016-17. We have seen a large increase in the number of 504 plans since 2016-17.

- The increase in 504 plans is common in the North Shore. TrueNorth shared data from 2023 that showed the state average for IEPS and 504s at 19.4%, which is close to our 19.8% from 2023. The average for TrueNorth elementary schools was 19.7% in 2023. In 2023, the state Average for students with 504 plans was 4.1%. It was 8% for us and 6.9% for TrueNorth elementary schools. We need to track this data because increased services lead to increased costs for us.

Figure 6

Students with IEPS and 504 Plans					
School Year	504 Plans	IEP (Dec 1 Child Count)	Gen Ed Enrollment (6th Day)	% of students with IEPs	% with IEP or 504
2016-17	53	174	1244	14.0	18.2
2017-18	70	178	1258	14.1	19.7
2018-19	83	174	1260	13.8	20.4
2019-20	88	177	1300	13.6	20.4
2020-21	97	151	1325	11.4	18.7
2021-22	111	159	1322	12.0	20.4
2022-23	97	167	1335	12.5	19.8
2023-24	129	166	1333	12.5	22.1
2024-25	126	175	1315	13.3	22.9
2025-26	108	192	1315	14.7	22.9
2026-27	117	184	1309	14.1	23.0